

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 8, 2010**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Development & Parks**

*Beryl D. Anderson, Chair  
Nancy R. McGregor  
David L. Samuel*

**Members Absent:** Beryl D. Anderson

**Members Present:** Nancy R. McGregor and David L. Samuel

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**Additional Attendees:**

Sadicka White; Anthony Jones; Tony Collins; Tom Weber; Jennifer Teal; Press

**ISSUES - From Director of Development:**

**2009 Annual Report**

McGregor called the meeting to order.

White provided copies of the Development Department's 2009 Annual Report. Jones said this is a new model for our annual report; we worked hard to make it user friendly; it is consolidated and summarized more; it's a good way to get the word out on all of the department's accomplishments; we distributed copies at our Groundhog event; anyone who wants some copies to hand out let me know as they are a great tool to educate the community.

White said we conducted close to 500 business visits; that is accurate as a visual count; we are working with finance to do better business matching; they get tax filers and we get monitors then we match them up; we have 25 new businesses located in Gahanna that provided 293 new jobs with income tax of \$250,000 projected; it is difficult to project tax since they are not required to give us information on what they pay; we get that information when they file with the Finance Department; the Building Department saw an investment of over 15.7 million dollars for new construction and renovation projects; that was a 7% difference from planning to commercial applications; we did 97% on the first pass yield on Planning Commission applications; Planning Commission per Charter is to have 24 meetings, but we had a 57% decrease in subsequent workshops so they didn't have to work as hard; the Building Department now has all records and plans from the last 50 years in storage off site and catalogued; we have gone from a manual system to a computer database; if someone comes in for a plan, we don't have to send downstairs to look for it; another statistic about planning is they brought in 75% of their operating costs; looking forward at 2010, how effective we will be depends on how much income comes in; our tax abatement fees brought in more than predicted by a couple of thousand dollars; that paid our Economic Manager's fee; we will be doing a presentation to Council later on in March with more detail, but when we took Jones, Evans and my salaries, and the jobs created with the predicted revenue of those jobs, it was 8% higher than costs if we were devoted to it 100% of the time; the City actually got a better value because we do other things but this helps the community understand about the efficiency and productivity of Development; we will continue to let you know about us and if you see something in another city let us know as we are always open for ideas.

Samuel asked if the Development Annual Report had information on business retention. White said no it doesn't although we are always evaluating what does it take to retain 80%; we need future growth as well as preventing businesses from exiting, so we keep a business base; this is critical; our emphasis has been on retaining what we have.

**Groundhog Day Event**

Jones said our Groundhog Day Economic Breakfast was a big success; we met a lot of

prospects and heard a good speaker; he was knowledgeable and easy to understand; we had 276 attendees; awards went to OSU Medical Center Carepoint; Jim Grote and Tiney McComb; over 100 surveys came back with positive feedback; we used a modified survey to get maximum feedback and we will implement some good recommendations given; plus the groundhog saw his shadow.

### **Hamilton Road Corridor Study**

Samuel said how important is it to developers to have the Hamilton Road Corridor Plan done. White said we looked at why it is important for redevelopment, and it is so things are done the way the community wants it done; we want to develop according to a plan so we look at it as what the plans will allow us to do; we had the first Steering Committee meeting for the Hamilton Road Corridor Plan Update on January 21, 2010; we had the best participation even though it is just the stakeholders at this time; we will have public meetings and get people involved as we progress; we plan to use social media as well as meetings to get more citizen participation and input; White reviewed the list of stake holders involved; said they represent the majority of the properties and we felt it was a good start; they wanted to know what is going to be accomplished and they want to provide input on what is happening with their property.

White said that is the extent of our report. Samuel asked if the Annual Report is online. White said yes and she appreciated the chance to talk about it in detail.

### **ISSUES - From Director of Parks & Recreation:**

#### **Updates**

Collins said I have 2 updates; the Mardi Gras Foundation Gala was a great event; very successful as it raised about \$11,000 for camp scholarships; we got over \$2,000 from direct donations; the rest was from the auction and tickets; we had 153 people attend which was good considering the weather; we had several companies in the community who donated such as Playworld and Stonehenge; also the band and auctioneer donated half of their cost back to the Foundation; we had volunteers who put in a ton of work; they are a strong group of people who pulled this off and a good time was had by all.

Collins said the next issue is it has been 5 years since we adopted our Master Plan; we are at a point where we have completed a number of projects; our parklands have changed as well as the economy, so we need to look at the Plan to update it; we will do this in house and have it facilitated by me; we want to look at community info and get good data; use that and identify current priorities and determine where we go in the next 5 years; it will be a rewrite; we are putting the committee together now; not that much information at this time but our biggest issue currently is getting public input. Samuel said isn't this the time of year you are gearing up for memberships to pools and the golf course. Collins said we are gearing up now; the word goes out in late February and early March for the pools and for the sign up for summer camp. Samuel said are the rates going up or are we giving early sign up discounts. Collins said we have had early bird discounts; but we are trying guest pass incentives this year.

Meeting Adjourned.

### **Della Brandenberger, Reporting**